



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



City of Seattle
Department of Neighborhoods
Greg Nickels, Mayor

September 2004 Vol.14 No. 5

Arrivederci Brent!

This issue of The Neighborhood News bids a fond farewell to Brent Crook, who is stepping down from his position as Director of DON's Community Building Division. As many of you know, Brent is leaving City government to pursue his dream of starting up a tour planning business that combines his love of travel with his love of all things Italian. Brent worked for the Department of Neighborhoods for nearly ten years, first as Director of the Neighborhood Service Center program and then later as director of the newly expanded Community Building Division that also encompassed the Neighborhood Matching Fund and P-Patch programs. Those of us who were privileged to work with Brent on a day to day basis can easily speak to his integrity and consummate professionalism, his sense of fairness and diplomacy, and most importantly, how he lives and practices his ideals about empowerment and social justice. A principled public servant, Brent's leadership of our division has been conducted with his rare blend of reasoned

common sense and compassion; and always with an eye toward best serving the public with the resources at hand.



We will miss Brent's many other talents as well. First and foremost, Brent is known far and wide as a punster without peer. Few have escaped his rather quirky brand of humor with its gentle and deadpan wit. He is also a gourmet cook of some renown. Many of us have been fortunate enough to sit down at one of his highly sought after Italian lunches, which he donated each year to the department's Combined Charities auction. Finally there is Brent the incurable optimist—possibly the result of being a lifelong Oregon Ducks fan—who has seen us through good times and bad and which enables him to root for the Mariners in all seasons.

So as Brent takes off to visit those Tuscan villas and rustic trattorias, we wish him every success in his new venture and can only hope that he doesn't learn how to pun in Italian.

Welcome Antoinette!

Neighborhoods welcomes our newest employee, Antoinette R. Meier, who just started as Neighborhood District Coordinator for the Lake Union district, where she will be responsible for community outreach and managing the Neighborhood Ser-

vice Center facility. She began working with us on August 11th.

Antoinette has an extensive background in community building, coming to us from the White Center Community Development Association (WCCDA) where she was responsible for

managing and implementing local development plans. In addition, Antoinette has led several successful community outreach efforts in the White Center and Delridge communities.

A native of Chicago, Antoinette went to college Missoula, MT,

See Welcome Antoinette on back page

Innovative Partnership Between Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle Recognized by National Award

A program jointly supported by Seattle Public Schools and the Seattle Office for Education has been nationally recognized for its innovation and effectiveness in teaching schools how to involve families in the education of their children.

The National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University, a national leader in best practice research in family involvement in education, has presented Seattle Public Schools' Family Partnerships Project with a prestigious **"National Family Partnerships"** award in recognition of the significant accomplishments made since the initiative's inception three years ago.

The Family Partnerships Project, which currently serves 23 schools, is designed to increase the ability of each school to engage all families in authentic, genuine partnerships around their child's education. It is funded in part by Seattle's Families & Education Levy.

"This award recognizes the commitment of principals, teachers, staff and families to work together in new and more effective ways to ensure success for every child," said Superintendent Raj Manhas. "We must build on these successes and become even more pro-active in engaging families in all of our activities."

Yvonne Sanchez, Director of the Department of Neighborhoods, said, "I'm very proud of the work that's been accomplished since the Family Partnerships Project began. This is another great example of an effective program included in the Families & Education Levy, and really shows the City and the District partnering to make a difference for our children."

The Family Partnerships Project helps schools learn how to tailor their family involvement activities to the needs of their students and school community. They employ a variety of innovative strategies to engage families, including workshops and classes for adults related to math, literacy, homework and leadership skills, a family enrichment center, and a WASL University and Parent Prep Academy.

"Family involvement is essential to the fabric of our school," says Beverly Raines, Principal at Brighton Elementary in southeast Seattle. "As we actively reach out to parents, we are building a community of support around our students that promotes academic achievement and social development."

To build on and extend this work, the Seattle School Board recently approved a groundbreaking "School-Family Partnerships Policy." The policy affirms the Board's belief that

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Mayor: Gregory J. Nickels

Director: Yvonne Sanchez

The Department of Neighborhoods reserves the right to edit material submitted for publication for length and clarity.

Please address submissions and questions to:

Editor, Neighborhood News

Peter McGraw

Department of Neighborhoods

700 3rd Ave., Ste 400

Seattle, WA 98104

ph: (206) 615-0950

TTD: (206) 684-0464

peter.mcgraw@seattle.gov

Accommodations for persons with disabilities provided upon request.

culturally inclusive and effective school-family partnerships across the District are critical to the success of every student.

For information about the Family Partnerships Project or family involvement in education, contact Adie Simmons at 206-252-0992.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Volunteer Recruitment Fair

Saturday, October 2, 2004

11 am-3 pm

Seattle Central Community College Atrium

(1701 Broadway, Seattle)

Validated parking available

The need for ESL services is growing!

Exciting English as a Second Language volunteer opportunities await caring, patient and creative individuals.

Get connected to the rich and diverse local immigrant and refugee community while helping adults learn English.

☐ learn about volunteer opportunities and ESL training

☐ connect with agencies who need volunteers

☐ enjoy cultural entertainment and ethnic food samples

Sponsors:

☐ Seattle Central Community College

☐ Seattle Public Library

☐ King County Library System

☐ Associates for Cultural Exchange

☐ ESL Educators Coalition of Seattle

☐ Literacy Source

For more information: 206-344-4378 or
email: eslcoalition@myway.com

Marra Farm invites you to our fifth annual MARRA FARM FALL FEST

Saturday, October 2nd, 2004

Noon - 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate fall and our successes at Marra Farm

Farm tours, music, food, homemade apple cider, games, activities, local goodies, cooking demos, and fresh produce.

Bring the whole family and your favorite potluck dish to share!

Marra Farm is located at 9026 4th Avenue South, in the South Park community.

(Nearest cross streets are 5th Avenue South & South Director Street)

For more information contact:

Lee Harper at Lettuce Link at (206) 694-6754 leeh@fremontpublic.org

Giving Meters Give Flowers, Community Involvement, on the Ave

This summer, you may notice something new in the 4500 block of University Way NE, better known as “The Ave.” Flowering and colorful plants adorn some of the tree pits, courtesy of a year-old partnership - the University District Youth & Community Project which develops employment opportunities and paychecks for street-involved youth. Members of the UYACP



newsletter featured the Historic University Theater where owner Andrew McMasters hired youth to paint the interior of his new theater.

We start at the Neighborhood Service Center (Department of Neighborhoods) office on the Ave, where the planting crew arrive with gardening tools. Karen Ko, Neighborhood Service Representative, is making introductions between everyone, and explaining the itinerary—along with the partnership and how this will strengthen the U District community.

Going door-to-door along the Ave, the Garden Works crew and Karen ask business owners if they are willing to care for the flowers planted in front of their establishments. All they have to do is agree to water them on a regular basis. Meanwhile, the work crew is busy planting the colorful arrays of annual plants from Seattle Dept of Transportation.

Garden Works employs homeless youth aged 16 to 22 for a 12-week program that teaches organic farming, with the produce they grow being sold every Saturday at the U District Farmer's Market. Once they graduate from the program, Garden Works networks with local landscape companies to place the youth in jobs.

include representatives from the faith community, the chamber, the City, the Partnership for Youth and the Working Zone, a program of the YWCA. This project also included the Seattle Department of Transportation who donated the plants, and gardeners and staff from Seattle Youth Garden Works, a program of the Church Council of Greater Seattle which teaches organic farming skills to homeless youth.

The University Youth and Community Project started with the installation of the “Giving Meters” in the University District last year. The five bright green meters on the Ave invite passers by to drop their coins into the meter to help pay youth to work in the District. The Advisory Board is charged with helping to create jobs in businesses in the District. One of the recent issues of this



Project Share helps keep the lights on

By Irene Stewart, Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens

Fall is here, and with it cooler weather and increased electricity bills. Through fall and winter, a large number of Seattle residents will fall behind in their electric utility payments. By spring, several thousand Seattle households will face disconnection — no lights, no heat, no hot water, and no way to cook.

You can help your friends and neighbors in need with their Seattle City Light bill payments by contributing to Project Share, a program that provides payment assistance and consultation for residential City Light customers who are experiencing financial crisis. Project Share, started in 1983, is made possible by private contributions from City Light customers.

Project Share donations assist customers whose household income is at or below 70% of the state median income who are facing disconnection of service and have exhausted other forms of assistance. Because public funds are not involved, assistance is also available for moderate-income customers who experience temporary crisis and face termination of service.

If you or someone you know is having trouble paying a utility bill, help is available. Project Share is one of several utility assistance programs administered by the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens. Staff screens applicants for income eligibility and advises them of payment options. Project Share pledge amounts vary according to circumstances and there is a matching requirement.

In addition, the Office for Senior Citizens administers rate discount programs for low-income older adults, adults with disabilities, and other low-income customers that can cut Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities bills in half. Information is also available regarding weatherization grants, which result in warmer homes that use less energy.

For information about utility rate assistance programs, call the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens at (206) 684-0500 or go to www.seattle.gov/humanservices/mosc/ on the Web. For Project Share assistance, customers must first make payment arrangements with and be referred by Seattle City Light. Call (206) 684-0268 for more information.

Contributing to Project Share

Project Share contributions directly benefit low-income customers in financial emergencies and are not used for administrative purposes. Contributions are tax deductible.

To contribute, call (206) 684-3000 or go to www.seattle.gov/light/help/share/ on the Web.

Contributions can be added to your electric bill. You can also mail a check (*payable to Project Share*) to the City of Seattle, Finance Department, PO Box 34017, Seattle, WA 98124-1017.

Neighborhood Matching Fund in Action!

Mayor Nickels awards a total of \$947,506 City dollars that will be matched by over \$2 million from communities



On Tuesday, July 20 Mayor Greg Nickels announced his recommendations for 18 Large Project Fund awards from the Neighborhood Matching Fund to a crowd of applicants and neighbors at the Historic Cooper School in Delridge. The Historic Cooper School is being redeveloped into a cultural arts center and is recommended for one of the awards.

These awards total \$947,506 City dollars and will be matched by over \$2 million from the community in volunteer labor, cash, donated services, and materials.

The recommendations include:

- ❑ A \$50,660 award to the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association for pre-construction work at the Old Cooper School
- ❑ A \$100,000 award to the Mt. Baker Boating Advisory Council for expansion of the Rowing and Sailing Center
- ❑ A \$50,000 award to the Magnolia Playground Improvement Projects for a playground renovation project

- ❑ A \$50,000 award to Heron Habitat Helpers for restoration of Kiwanis Ravine
- ❑ A \$15,000 award to the Rain King Neighborhood Organization for design of a Seattle Children's PlayGarden
- ❑ A \$40,000 award to the Friends of Goat Hill for new park development
- ❑ A \$45,246 award to the Sanislo Elementary PTSA to create an interpretive garden adjacent to the wetland
- ❑ A \$50,000 award to the Friends of Homer Harris Park for park development featuring an art component
- ❑ A \$25,000 award to Forgotten Works for low-income artist studios/workspace
- ❑ A \$70,000 award to the North Beach Elementary PTSA for a playground
- ❑ A \$15,000 award to the Friends of California Substation for park design
- ❑ A \$33,600 award to Groundswell NW for a Salmon Bay estuary restoration project and concept plan
- ❑ A \$35,500 award to the Greenwood Community Council for a transportation plan for Greenwood town center





❑ A \$75,000 award to the White Center Community Development Association for the creation and installation of a White Center neighborhood emblem

❑ A \$100,000 award to the Friends of Cesar Chavez Park for construction of a new park in South Park

❑ A \$100,000 award to the Filipino Community of Seattle for renovation of the Filipino Community Center

❑ A \$52,500 award to the Friends of the Greenwood Senior Center for a kitchen remodel

Councilmembers David Della, chair of the Council's

Parks, Neighborhoods, and Education Committee, and Committee member Jean Godden also participated in the awards announcement. Also present were several members of the Citywide Review Team, the citizen body that read, rated, and made funding recommendations to the Mayor. The City Council approved these recommendations in September.

Mayor Nickels Awards \$229,051 to Neighborhood Projects

20 outstanding Small and Simple projects receive funding



Mayor Greg Nickels announced yesterday that twenty neighborhood projects will receive matching grants from the Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund. Small and Simple Project Fund Awards are given several times a year to groups who match the public funds with locally raised money, donated materials, and volunteer labor.

"Seattle is a city of great neighborhoods, and it's great to be able to support these groups in their work," said Mayor Nickels. "Together we're building strong communities, and seeing great results."

See Neighborhood Matching Fund in Action on page 8

Neighborhood Surveys in the Technology Age

This past spring, residents in Capitol Hill, Greenwood-Phinney Ridge, and North Beacon Hill surveyed their neighborhoods with handheld computer technology to document quality of life concerns such as graffiti, potholes, trip hazards, and invasive plants. In late July, youth and elders affiliated with the International District Housing Alliance's Wilderness Inter-City Leadership Program will conduct a similar neighborhood survey in the International District. The handheld technology being used by these groups – *Computerized Neighborhood Environment Tracking* (ComNETsm) was developed by the Fund for the City of New York <<http://www.fcny.org/>> and is being utilized by citizens in dozens of cities across the country.

Sustainable Seattle (S2) <<http://www.sustainableseattle.org/>>, a local non-profit dedicated to promoting sustainable communities, is bringing this tool to Seattle as part of its Neighborhood Indicators Project, an effort funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation <<http://www.sloan.org/main.shtml>> to help citizens use data to monitor and improve the quality of life in Seattle's neighborhoods. The goal of the project is to provide access to information about local conditions that influence the quality of life in a neighborhood so that citizens and government can more effectively address key community concerns. Over the next three years, Sustainable Seattle will be partnering in up to 10 Seattle neighborhoods to document, monitor, and improve conditions.

Conducting neighborhood surveys is not new. S2's Project Manager, Michelle Caulfield explains, "what is really innovative and exciting about ComNETsm is the ability to digitally record conditions by location, include photographs, and efficiently deliver findings to the appropriate city agency." Because each condition is automatically associated with a responsible agency, ComNETsm helps citizens navigate an often bureaucratic and confusing system for getting action. Through this results-oriented technology, S2 hopes to attract citizens who have historically been less involved in their community.

ComNETsm is also easy to use. Community volunteers can be trained in just a few hours to

use hand-held computers to record conditions. Digital cameras attached to the computer provide another way for information to be documented. These reports can be used to help community members understand the range of neighborhood concerns and better understand which agency is responsible for which problem. Neighborhood groups can also use these reports to outline priorities and develop strategies for both citizens and government to make the necessary improvements.

Initial ComNETsm Findings: Capitol Hill, Greenwood-Phinney Ridge & North Beacon Hill

As Chart 1 illustrates, citizens found the most number of problems (or incidents) on **sidewalks**, with **trip hazards** being the most frequent issue. Similarly, a number of problems with **trees** and **tree pits** were found including **root heave**, **pavers uneven**, and **weeds**. In North Beacon Hill especially, residents found that many of the **planting strips** are currently covered in **asphalt or concrete** rather than vegetation.

It is also useful to look at the data from a "problem" perspective, since conditions such as **graffiti** can occur on a number of different features – a mailbox, a trash can, or a building. As Chart 2 illustrates, **graffiti**, **trip hazards** and **weeds** were the most frequent issue recorded across the three neighborhoods. However, problems were not uniformly distributed across neighborhoods. **Graffiti** and **trip hazards** were most prevalent in Capitol Hill and Greenwood-Phinney, with **trip hazards** and **weeds** most prevalent in North Beacon Hill.

Taking Action

Sustainable Seattle will be working with community members to prioritize findings from the neighborhood surveys and develop strategies for improving neighborhood conditions. They are also working to direct survey results to the appropriate city agency for action.

See Neighborhood Surveys in the Technology Age on page 9

Award recipients and community leaders from all over the city joined Mayor Nickels, Councilman David Della, and Department of Neighborhoods Director Yvonne Sanchez at Langston Performing Arts Center for the awards ceremony Tuesday night. The 20 awards range from \$1,800 to \$15,000 and total \$229,051. The communities will match the City's contribution with resources valued at \$399,506. Projects vary according to need, but include park improvements, literacy programs, and street fairs.

"A lot of effort has gone into these projects, and it's a sign of real success when people come together to make their neighborhoods a better place for everyone," Sanchez said.

The Small and Simple Projects Fund is one of four components of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, and provides awards of up to \$15,000 for community-driven projects that take up to six



months to complete. Seattle neighborhoods have completed more than 2500 projects in the last 15 years using as little as \$100 and as much \$100,000 from the Neighborhood Matching Fund.

One recent success in Greenwood-Phinney Ridge came after the community survey revealed that the second largest problem in that neighborhood had to do with trees and tree pits. ComNETsm surveys showed frequent occurrences of street trees outgrowing their tree pits and of roots heaving towards the surface in search of water. The result is considerable strain on the trees, uneven pavement, broken curbs, trip hazards, and unsightly sidewalks. To address these findings, Sustainable Seattle helped convene community members such as the Greenwood-Phinney Chamber of Commerce, the Greenwood Community Council, and the Phinney Ridge

Community Council to develop a proposal to the City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development to tackle the many tree and tree pit issues along the neighborhood business district. The group successfully secured \$20,000 and will begin efforts this summer.

For more information about Sustainable Seattle's Neighborhood Indicators Project or to find out how your neighborhood can get involved, please email **Deborah Kuznitz** at deborah@sustainableseattle.org or visit **Sustainable Seattle's** website <http://www.sustainableseattle.org/>.

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July 6, 2004 - Small and Simple Awards

Project Name	Neighborhood Organization	Match Amount	NMF Amount
Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center Advisory Council	Langston Hughes Center Advisory Council	\$18,500	\$15,000
Freeway Park Renewal	Freeway Park Neighborhood Group	\$34,000	\$15,000
Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery Park	Friends of the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery Park	\$17,562	\$15,000
Phase 2 of Improvements to Interlaken Park	Neighbors of Interlaken Park at the 26th Avenue Bridge	\$8,318	\$8,160
Lifetime of Literacy	Northgate Chamber of Commerce	\$12,370	\$12,370
Pinehurst Pocket Park	Pinehurst Community Council	\$5,000	\$10,000
New Traffic Signal/Curb Bulb at Sand Point Way NE and 50th Ave NE	Laurelhurst Community Club	\$15,000	\$15,000
Phase II Landscape improvements at Hamilton International Middle School	Hamilton Middle School PTSA	\$1,290	\$11,785
Exterior Painting and Improvements to Wallingford Boys & Girls Club	Wallingford Boys & Girls Club	\$28,706	\$15,000
Miracle on 56th Street - Phase 3 Speed Cushions	Citizens for 55th St	\$1,800	\$1,800
Green Lake Green Day	Green Lake Green Day Planning Committee and Billings Middle School	\$9,250	\$8,530
Miracle on 56th Street - Phase 4 Tangletown Curb Bulb	Citizens for 56th Street	\$15,000	\$5,000
York Substation Park Development	Friends of Goat Hill	\$21,670	\$15,000
The Transformation Initiative	Friends of Rainier Valley	\$20,084	\$14,979
Rainier Beach Back 2 School Bash	Rainier Beach Coalition for Community Development and Renewal	\$36,345	\$8,520
Colman Park Native Planting	Friends of Colman Park	\$3,415	\$3,415
Delridge Community Day	Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association	\$75,459	\$11,884
Cultural Dance Group	SafeFutures Youth Center	\$43,540	\$15,000
Gathering of Neighbors	Megawatt	\$23,677	\$14,033
Bayview-Kinnear Park Improvements	Friends of Bayview-Kinnear	\$8,520	\$13,575

\$400,000 available for Race and Social Justice projects this year through the Neighborhood Matching Fund

In July the City Council unanimously voted to make \$400,000 available for Race and Social Justice projects this year through the Neighborhood Matching Fund. Postcards are going out this week announcing the availability of this funding via a Request for Proposals (RFP).

Extensive outreach is being done to notify community groups about this funding opportunity. A press release has gone out from the Mayor's Office. In addition to our usual mailing list, we are sending postcards to immigrant/refugee groups, ethnic and cultural groups, churches, non-profits, social service agencies, and activist groups. Technical assistance/information sessions will be held on September 18 and 21. Details about the sessions are listed below.

Saturday, September 18

**South Lake Union Armory Building
860 Terry Ave. North**

9-10 AM Ideas Fair

**Neighborhood Matching Fund Project Displays
and Networking**

10-11:30 AM Workshops

Topics will include:

- Race and Social Justice Projects
- Fundraising
- Outreach
- Writing a Competitive Application

Tuesday, September 21

**Beacon Hill Public Library
2821 Beacon Ave. South**

6-7:30 PM Technical Assistance Workshop Race and Social Justice Projects

In-person meetings and direct outreach to community groups is an important part of our plan to spread the word about this unique funding opportunity. We'd like to ask for your help in getting the word out as broadly as possible. I've attached

a copy of the RFP, cover letter, postcard, and Ideas Fair flyer. Please open each file and save a copy to your hard drive so you can send them as attachments. This information is also on our website at: www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf

You may recall that the Mayor recently announced a new website for the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative. In keeping with the focus of this Initiative, Race and Social Justice applications for 2004 will:

- ☐ Improve relationships and understanding among racial and ethnic groups; and
- ☐ Promote social justice in education, economic development, housing, health, the environment, or other areas.

Groups working on social justice projects are encouraged to apply and proposals should emphasize efforts to include involvement from communities of color, and ethnic or cultural groups.

Again, we are overjoyed that the Department of Neighborhoods is able to support a new round of race and social justice projects. Please call Garry Owens at 684-0718, Anne Takekawa at 684-4523, or Laurie Ames at 684-0320, if you have questions. Thanks in advance for helping get the word out!

Welcome Antoinette continued from front page

and was located in San Diego as an Americorps volunteer, working on low-income housing development with a community development corporation (CDC) and was hired on to continue her work with the organization.

Antoinette was able to meet her future husband, Greg, in San Diego, who coincidentally not only went to Missoula, but grew up in Chicago as well. His graduate school work brought him to the UW, where the two relocated in 2002, when Antoinette began work at the WCCDA.

In their free time Antoinette and her husband enjoy the outdoors, hiking, backpacking, and travelling. Their most recent trip abroad was their honeymoon where they backpacked around Southeast Asia, covering ground in Thailand Cambodia and Vietnam.

We are very fortunate to have her experience and expertise working for Neighborhoods, and will be an asset to our team. When you get the opportunity, please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome her aboard.

Antoinette is committed to our goals of building strong communities here in Seattle. u



City of Seattle
Department of Neighborhoods
700 3RD Ave Ste 400
Seattle WA 98104-1848

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